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New York

Chairman: Mr. Kiwanuka ..... (Uganda)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda items 57, 58 and 60 to 73 (*continued*)

Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman: This morning, delegations are invited to make statements on matters related to disarmament and international security. Delegations are also invited to continue to introduce draft resolutions. The Chair will circulate the revised text of each draft resolution.

Mr. Sanders (Netherlands): I have asked for the floor to present to the Committee our new draft resolution on national legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual use goods and technology, circulated as document A/C.1/57/L.18. That is a new draft resolution, and I should like to take this opportunity to explain more in depth what it is about and what it is not about. I say that because it is my impression that some of us may read more into the draft resolution than is actually there.

It is the sovereign right of every nation to exercise control over which goods and materials enter its territory, are exported from its territory or are in transit on its territory. That right to control is even more important with regard to goods and materials related to security, and by that I mean weapons, military equipment and goods and technologies that could be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction but that could also have important peaceful applications. Such goods are normally referred to as "dual use goods". Every country that is a party to one of the three instruments that control weapons of mass destruction — the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) — knows exactly what is meant by "dual use goods".

For reasons of national security, but also in view of commitments under the international treaties that I just mentioned, many States have established national legislation, regulations or other measures to control what is moving into or out of their territory. That legislation is public information, because trading companies need to know what the rules are; there are no secrets here. The commitments under the international treaties that I mentioned are twofold: to prevent the development of weapons of mass destruction, as forbidden by those treaties, by implementing commitments under the treaties; and not to impose impediments to peaceful use or to international cooperation. That is what we mean when we say "taking into account commitments under international treaties" at the end of operative paragraph 1.

What does our new draft resolution propose? First of all, it has been written under the assumption that national legislation on transfers is a good thing: it is necessary to protect legitimate national security interests, and it is also necessary to implement

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commitments under treaties such as the NPT, the CWC and the BTWC. If a State has no effective legal control over the transfer of those goods across its territory, anyone in that territory can possess any weapon without any sanction or control, which does not seem to be a good situation to us. Therefore, our draft resolution invites Member nations that have not yet done so to enact national legislation for effective control over transfers — nothing more, nothing less.

Secondly, our draft resolution encourages Member States that have established legislation to inform the Secretary-General about it. The Secretary-General can then make such information accessible to other Member States that might be interested to know more about other States' legislation. We believe that that will be very useful for countries that are in the process of developing or improving their legislation in this area: they can learn from and make use of the experience of other States. If they have questions concerning lists of dual use goods, for example, they can see what sorts of lists other countries have established in their legislation.

I hope that I have explained what our draft resolution is about. Let me also explain very frankly what it is not about. This draft resolution concerns purely factual texts of legislation — national instruments to exercise control. It does not — I repeat, does not — say anything about how those national instruments are used. It does not say anything about national policies governing transfer in specific cases. There are many different ideas as to whether or not certain transfer policies are right or wrong, but that is not the issue of this draft resolution. The draft resolution is restricted to two issues — please exercise effective control over transfer, and, if you have done so, please inform the United Nations — nothing more, nothing less.

Before I conclude, I should like to add one more consideration. I assume that the Committee is aware of the profile of the Netherlands in such domains as development cooperation, free trade and scientific and technological development. We have a high profile, as I hope all members know, and we very actively support promoting those issues further. At the same time — and this is very important — I wish to point out that we are here in the First Committee and that the First Committee is not the World Trade Organization, the Economic and Social Council or any other important body that deals with trade and economic issues. The First Committee's primary responsibilities are in the domain of disarmament, non-proliferation and related security issues. Of course, we realize that there is a link with economic development, and that link is also recognized in the treaties that I mentioned. Yet, the main area of our work remains non-proliferation, disarmament and related security issues.

Having said that, my delegation expresses the hope that this new draft resolution will enjoy the widest possible support. I should be happy to answer any questions that members may have, and I am accessible to delegations that wish clarifications on any points.

The Chairman: I call on the representative of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.47.

Mr. Kerim (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): I have the honour on behalf of all sponsoring delegations and my own delegation to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.47, "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe". My delegation is grateful to all the co-sponsoring countries for their support for and active participation in the preparations of this draft resolution.

The draft resolution is a follow-up to last year's resolution 56/18. It addresses the complexity of the issues of security, disarmament, stability and cooperation and reflects the developments in the region over the previous year. The most important aim of the draft resolution is to further contribute to the realization of the common determination to build peace, stability and progress in the countries of South-Eastern Europe and to further pave the way for comprehensive cooperation in the region.

The United Nations, together with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Stability Pact and other regional organizations or initiatives, has contributed significantly to the overall processes for achieving a democratic, stable and economically prosperous South-Eastern Europe. These encouraging positive developments were the underlying reason for our decision to include this agenda item for consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Over the past two years, the situation in the region has been improving and the region of South-Eastern Europe has undergone many positive changes that have brought about a new climate of cooperation among States. Today, all countries in the region have democratic Governments and all embrace the same values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the market economy. At the same time, they are committed to the same goal of ever closer European and Euro-Atlantic integration. The strengthening of regional cooperation is enhancing the position of each individual country and contributing to the security, stability and faster economic development of the region as a whole.

However, we consider that problems and challenges remain. In order to overcome them, we need to deepen cooperation among ourselves and with the wider international community. The main responsibility, however, rests with the countries of the region, which have to facilitate functional integration in various fields of interest, such as infrastructure, energy, transport, trade and the environment.

Recent developments in our region have shown that extremist and terrorist activities are closely connected to various forms of organized crime. This situation has rendered even more imperative the necessity of actively enhancing regional cooperation and enlarging its scopes and objectives in areas such as crime prevention, combating terrorism, trafficking in human beings, organized crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering.

Another threat that should be urgently addressed is the issue of small arms and light weapons, which is one of the main destabilizing factors in the region. In this regard, concerted regional efforts and the support of the international community are required to effectively prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The establishment of the United Nations Development Programme/Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe Small Arms Clearing House in Belgrade will surely contribute to this aim.

It is the belief of the sponsors that the text of the draft resolution is balanced and forward-looking. Its primary goal is to identify measures and efforts that may lead to the further stabilization of South-Eastern Europe and the elimination of threats to its security. In this context, it must be underlined not only that the primary responsibility for the future of the region rests with the States themselves, but also that the international organizations have a significant role to play. Of no less importance is full observance of relevant international instruments.

In conclusion, on behalf of all sponsors, I wish to express our sincere hope that the draft resolution will be adopted without a vote again this year.

The Chairman: I call on the representative of South Africa to introduce six draft resolutions.

Ms. Notutela (South Africa): It is a pleasure for my delegation to introduce six draft resolutions on behalf of the members and observer States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The first draft resolution, in document A/C.1/57/L.8, concerns the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Members of the Non-Aligned Movement and a large majority of other members of the international community continue to believe that the convening of a fourth special session would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons.

The Non-Aligned Movement continues to believe that a special session should review the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era. The draft resolution builds on the previous one, with the addition of a decision to establish an open-ended working group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the establishment of a preparatory committee, and to submit a report on its work before the end of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. We trust that Member States will acknowledge the need to collectively gather to consider the implications of the decisions we took at the fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly and therefore to adopt this draft resolution without a vote.

The second draft resolution on behalf of the Movement, contained in document A/C.1/57/L.9, is entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol". The draft recalls the long-standing

determination of the international community to ban chemical and biological weapons. It welcomes initiatives taken by some State parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol in withdrawing their reservations. It also renews the General Assembly's previous calls to strictly observe the principles, objectives and provisions of that Treaty and it calls upon those States that continue to maintain reservations to withdraw them. We trust that this draft resolution will be adopted with the widest possible support.

I also take this opportunity to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.11, entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament". This draft resolution underlines the importance of all regional centres as mechanisms to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support in the field of arms control and disarmament. The draft resolution supports the activities of the three regional centres in Nepal, Peru and Togo and emphasizes the valuable contribution of these centres towards changing basic attitudes to peace and security. The draft resolution also requests Member States in each of these regions and those in a position to do so, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the three regional centres so as to enable them to fulfil their role and to enhance their programmes and activities. It is the hope of the sponsors that the draft resolution will again be adopted without a vote.

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.12 is entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control". Its objective is to ensure compliance with relevant environmental norms when negotiating and implementing treaties and agreements related to disarmament. The international community has long been aware of the detrimental consequences of uncontrolled radioactive sources and the risks associated with military activities involving nuclear materials. The dismantling of certain categories of weapons requires techniques and methods that would sustain and augment the prevailing environmental standards. While the draft resolution does not make any reference to specific disarmament agreements, it nonetheless calls upon States to take fully into account relevant environmental norms while negotiating arms control and disarmament treaties and agreements. It also calls for the application of the advances made in science and technology to enhance security and facilitate disarmament, without adversely affecting the environment or sustainable development. We remain hopeful that the draft resolution will be adopted with the widest possible support.

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.17, entitled "The relationship between disarmament and development", underlines the importance of reallocating valuable resources released as a result of disarmament for development purposes, thereby reducing the gap between developed and developing countries. This relationship has gained momentum and indeed become more relevant against the backdrop of the diversion of a large proportion of financial, material and technological resources to armaments. This has placed a heavy burden on the economies of many States, especially developing countries. The stark contrast between expenditures for armaments and the paucity of aid for socio-economic progress is also self evident. The draft resolution acknowledges the actions taken in the context of the Final Document, adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and calls upon the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development to strengthen and enhance its programme of activities in accordance with the mandate adopted at the Conference. It also urges the international community to devote part of the resources made available through the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to socio-economic development.

The draft resolution welcomes the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a group of governmental experts to undertake a review of the relationship between disarmament and development. It also requests the Secretary-General, within available resources and with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be established in 2003, to present at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly a report on the recommendations for a reappraisal of the relationship between disarmament and development. The sponsors trust that this draft resolution will again be adopted without a vote.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new draft resolution entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation" (A/C.1/57/L.10). The draft resolution reaffirms multilateralism as the core principle in

negotiating and resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns. It underlines the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) remains convinced that today, more than ever before, international peace and security requires the participation of the entire international community and once again calls upon all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation.

The NAM and observer countries would like to see this draft resolution obtain consensus in the First Committee. We would welcome any comment or draft proposals from States or groups in order to achieve this and assure that serious consideration will be given to any such suggestions and proposals.

Mr. Than (Myanmar): We were dismayed to hear the news of the appalling terrorist attack in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 October 2002. Some 200 innocent people lost their lives in the incident. We were also saddened to learn of another terrorist attack in Zamboanga, in the southern Philippines, on 17 October 2002, where there was also loss of life. Our hearts go out to the victims and their bereaved families. We wish to extend our heartfelt condolences through the delegation of Indonesia and the delegation of the Philippines to the bereaved families. The intent of the terrorists to frighten us does not produce the desired effect. On the contrary, it has only united us in our fight against terror. Our outrage at these cowardly acts of terrorism has strengthened our resolve to intensify our campaign to eradicate this horrible scourge.

I have the honour and privilege to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.43, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", on behalf of the following sponsors: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Tonga, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and my own delegation, Myanmar.

Document A/C.1/L.43 is our traditional draft resolution that we have tabled every year since 1995. It is sponsored by all ASEAN countries and many NAM countries.

This is the draft resolution reflecting the majority views of the NAM countries. It is specific and substantive in setting out a phased programme and necessary steps for nuclear disarmament. It also sends a clear and powerful political signal to rid the world of these horrendous weapons in precise, uncompromising and unequivocal terms.

The second preambular paragraph of the draft reaffirms the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world; the fourth preambular paragraph recognizes that conditions now exist for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons and stresses the need to take concrete steps towards achieving this goal; the nineteenth preambular paragraph reaffirms that, in accordance with the Charter, States should refrain from the use or the threat use of nuclear-weapons in settling their disputes in international relations.

Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution recognizes that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies in order to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used, and to facilitate the process of their total elimination. In operative paragraph 3, the nuclear-weapon States are urged to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery system; operative paragraph 4 urges the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and de-activate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems. In operative paragraph 6, the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, are called upon to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear-weapons. All States are called upon to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of

nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapons States. Operative paragraph 8 underlines the importance of applying the principle of irreversibility to the process of nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures.

In its operative paragraph 11, draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.43 urges the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process. In operative paragraph 12, it calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein. In operative paragraph 13, it urges the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty, with a view to their conclusion within five years.

All representatives who have spoken in this Committee have in unison sounded a clarion call for further deep reductions in the nuclear arsenals of the nuclear-weapon States and for the implementation of the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament, leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.43 truly and fully reflects the aforementioned urgency and importance of the question, and it addresses the crucial issues involved in nuclear disarmament in a substantive manner.

The draft resolution, while maintaining its traditional main thrust, framework and format, reflects relevant recent developments that have a bearing on the question of nuclear disarmament.

At previous sessions of the General Assembly, the Member States had extended their overwhelming support to our traditional draft resolution. I hope that, as in previous years, Member States will do so once again with respect to draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.43, entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

Mr. Maandi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): The Algerian delegation would like to express its views on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.43, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", submitted by Myanmar — a draft resolution that my delegation has co-sponsored since the first year of its submission.

My delegation would like to reaffirm, through its support for this draft resolution, the pivotal importance it attaches to nuclear disarmament, the only sound option for future generations.

We would like also to reaffirm our unconditional commitment to promoting a world free from the spectre of the nuclear threat and based on collective and universal security — a world that can make a clean break with the anachronistic military theories and doctrines of nuclear dissuasion, which can no longer be justified and which today are hindering the progress of the nuclear disarmament process.

Lastly, we would like also to express our concern at the stagnation that seems to be characterizing the nuclear disarmament process and at the gradual loss of flexibility in the positions that prevailed following the end of ideological antagonisms — a flexibility that, as we will all recall, made it possible to achieve significant results in the disarmament field. The end of the cold war and of ideological confrontation must give a positive impetus to nuclear disarmament.

Indeed, the draft resolution before us argues in favour of nuclear disarmament. It is based on a bold view of nuclear disarmament that is closely identified with that of the Non-Aligned Movement. It also reflects the aspirations of the international community, as expressed in the first resolution on nuclear disarmament, adopted in May 1946.

The draft resolution welcomes the positive outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), namely the undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, the draft recognizes that there now exist for the establishment of a world free from nuclear weapons, and that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines to facilitate the process of their elimination.

The draft proposes a set of relevant and practical measures to clear the way for the achievement of the lofty objective of the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

My delegation believes that the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament, the creation in 2003 of an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament; the commencement of negotiations on a treaty on fissile material; and an agreement, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, on a legally binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear States, are proposals that would make possible to fulfil the commitment made by nuclear States to totally eliminate their nuclear arsenals and to give meaning and coherence to the process of nuclear disarmament.

These measures reflect our view of nuclear disarmament, which should not only liberate humankind from the threat of extinction, but also free up resources that are currently being utilized for arms in order that they might benefit the economic and social development of all humankind.

My delegation therefore supports this draft resolution and calls on all delegations to give it their overwhelming support.

Along the same lines, I am pleased to express the full support of my delegation for draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.53 on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, which was submitted by Malaysia and which my country has co-sponsored since its submission to the First Committee.

Algeria calls on all delegations to give the draft resolution on nuclear disarmament their full support.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation is submitting for consideration by the First Committee draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.1, under item 61 of the agenda, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

The rapid progress achieved in developing information technologies and means of communication, as well as their increasing use in all areas of human activity, is creating unprecedented possibilities for development. Information resources are becoming increasingly important to progress at both the national and global levels.

However, we have seen no reduction in the potential danger posed by the use of advances in the realm of information technology for purposes incompatible with the goals of scientific and technological progress; the maintenance of international peace and security; and compliance with the principles of the non-use or threat of use of force, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States, and respect for human rights and freedoms.

This potential danger requires the adoption of preventive measures. Indeed, the problem has become particularly serious in the light of the major threat that is now facing humankind as it enters the twenty-first century: that of international terrorism.

The subject of international information security has been the focus of attention of the United Nations for a number of years now. The General Assembly's adoption by consensus of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28 and 56/19 reflect not only a recognition by the countries of the world of the existence of this problem, but also a broad understanding of the importance of continuing to keep it under consideration in a multilateral format.

The report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", contained in documents A/57/166 and A/57/166/Add.1, contains a number of new national viewpoints and assessments that are an important addition to the views and viewpoints that had been sent in earlier by Member States.

In November 2001, on the initiative of the Russian Federation, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a revised text of resolution 56/19, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", providing, inter alia, for the creation in 2004 of a group of governmental experts appointed by the Secretary-General on the basis of equitable geographic distribution and, with the help of Member States, competent to offer the necessary expertise. Something that is of great importance will be the actual getting-down-to-work on the part of the expert group, which should lead to a thorough study of the whole range of questions connected with international information security and produce appropriate recommendations.

The draft resolution being put forward for this fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly by the Russian Federation contains nothing different from the resolution already adopted without a vote at the fifty-

sixth session of the Assembly, except for technical changes. The sole refinement of the text in this draft is an indication to the effect that one of the most serious challenges that countries may be facing is the potential for the use of information technology and facilities in ways that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of the very infrastructure of States. In the course of preliminary discussion on the draft resolution, we have taken fully into account the wishes expressed by some of our colleagues with regard to this point.

I call on delegations to support the Russian draft resolution. I count on the fact that, as in previous years, it will be adopted by consensus.

The Chairman: I give the floor to the representative of Mali, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25.

Mr. Keita (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, on behalf of my delegation I would like to extend my congratulations on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

I am honoured to take the floor and to introduce, on behalf of the 15 Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) — namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo — the draft resolution submitted for the approval of the First Committee entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25, which is submitted to the First Committee, is an update of the resolution adopted last year by our Committee on the same topic. The preamble mentions the underlying causes of the initiatives taken at the subregional and regional level, as well as at the United Nations, in order to get a better grasp of the problem of small arms. Their extent and persistence, linked to the illicit traffic in small arms and their illicit international trafficking pose a threat to populations and a factor that destabilizes our States. In this respect, it was necessary to advance the efforts for greater cooperation in order to stem this scourge. Thus, the draft resolution presented this year adopted the wording of the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The preamble further welcomes the decision taken by ECOWAS to renew the declaration of a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa.

In the operative part, it notes the actions taken at the subregional, regional and United Nations levels in implementing this initiative. It also mentions the establishment of national commissions to combat the proliferation of small arms and recommends the involvement of civil society organizations and associations in the fight against the proliferation of these arms.

By way of amendments, the term "African Union" has replaced that of "OAU" in the last line of operative paragraph 1. Operative paragraph 4 was supplemented by an appeal for the implementation of the Programme of Action. Operative paragraph 8 mentions the African Conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action "Needs and partnerships", held in Pretoria, South Africa, in March 2002.

In his report dated 12 July 2002 on this matter, the Secretary-General concluded in these terms:

> "While it is true that the primary responsibility for addressing the threat posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons rests with the affected States themselves, it is important that the international community continue to provide those States with technical and financial assistance in order to strengthen further their ability to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and to collect them." (*A/57/209, para. 7*)

The ECOWAS Member States fully share the Secretary-General's point of view and urge the international community to support and accompany their efforts through greater cooperation and better coordination in a collective effort to stem the phenomenon of the illicit trafficking of small arms. We are pleased with our cooperation with the Secretariat and the Department for Disarmament Affairs, and urge them to continue their efforts to promote and support the different initiatives of the West African subregion.

We thank all the countries that have sponsored this draft and, in particular, those of the European Union and Canada, our special partners in the

implementation of this decision, whose substance remains an essential concern for development in our States. We would also like to thank countries that will join the list of sponsors.

To conclude, as in previous years, it is our wish that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus by the First Committee.

The Chairman: I thank the representative of Mali for his kind words addressed to the Chair and to the Bureau.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of Algeria, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.31.

Mr. Maandi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): It is my great pleasure to introduce to the First Committee the draft resolution entitled, "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", contained in document A/C.1/57/L.31, and with the following sponsors: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia and my own country, Algeria.

The introduction each year of this draft resolution by the group of sponsors, whose number has increased over the last two years, is a perfect illustration of the state of mind prevailing in most countries of the region and a test of their commitment to making this region into a stable, peaceful and prosperous one.

This attachment to the construction of the Euro-Mediterranean region is particularly strong, because it derives from the many different kinds of links woven by history and by partnership in the same geographical area, where there is a high development of the strong tradition of exchanges among the peoples and where there is an immense reservoir of complementarities which could be exploited in reciprocal interest, properly and fairly understood.

Aware of the common destiny of their peoples, the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region have undertaken a process of dialogue that is becoming ever deepened by the multiplication of common initiatives designed to mobilize efforts to restore to the Mediterranean its tradition as a lake of peace and cooperation.

The Barcelona Conference of 1995 marked the recognition of the special nature of Euro-Mediterranean relations and the need for collective action to eliminate misunderstandings and reduce inequalities and imbalances in the Mediterranean region. It ultimately laid the basis for a mutually advantageous and fruitful partnership that equitably meets the expectations of the people on all shores. The different ministerial meetings held subsequently and the efforts undertaken in other contexts for consultation and dialogue have produced a new momentum in the process of building a Euro-Mediterranean zone of growth, prosperity, sharing and stability.

The draft resolution that the sponsors are submitting to members of the First Committee is similar to resolution 56/29, which was adopted at the previous session. Its goal is to deal with a large range of questions connected to strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. The only amendment introduced by the sponsors this year relates to an addition of a phrase in operative paragraph 3, whereby the General Assembly considers that the United Nations can contribute to the promotion of regional and international peace and security.

In the preamble, the draft resolution recalls all the initiatives undertaken by the Mediterranean countries designed to consolidate peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. It also reaffirms the duty of all States to contribute to stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean region, and also their commitment to respect the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States. While stressing the indivisibility of security in the Mediterranean, the draft resolution notes that peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be global, constitute an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region.

In the draft resolution's operative part, paragraph 2 reaffirms the fundamental principles underlying efforts of the Mediterranean countries to eliminate all causes of tension in the region and to succeed in resolving the problems of the area in a peaceful, just and lasting manner. Also, in operative paragraph 4, it

repeats the feeling that the elimination of economic and social disparities connected with the unequal levels of development, promotion of mutual respect and better understanding among the cultures of the Mediterranean basin, will strengthen peace, security and cooperation among the countries of the region.

In the realm of disarmament, the text in operative paragraph 5 calls upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Operative paragraph 6 encourages all States of the region to favour the establishment of confidence-building measures and to promote openness and transparency. Furthermore, in operative paragraph 7, all the Mediterranean States are encouraged to further strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, taking into account the relevant United Nations resolutions, and in combating international organized crime, illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region.

As in previous sessions, the sponsors remain confident that this draft resolution will enjoy the valuable support of all members of this Committee, and that it will then be adopted without a vote.

The Chairman: The next speaker on my list is the representative of the United States, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.54.

Mr. McGinnis (United States of America): I take the floor this morning to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.54, entitled "Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements".

This Committee, and the United Nations General Assembly, last addressed compliance issues when the United States offered a resolution on this subject in 1997. Since then, much has happened to emphasize even more urgently the need for compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. My remarks will focus on this heightened need to insure compliance with such agreements as an important way to insure international security and stability.

As Assistant Secretary Rademaker said in his address to this body on 3 October, this is a time of great danger. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is an increasing reality, along with the realization of the threats we will all face if terrorists gain access to such weapons. In this regard, the United States believes that every country in the world should be a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. We also believe that every country that has signed and ratified these agreements should comply fully with their provisions and that States Parties must hold each other accountable and take appropriate steps to deter violations. The international community must use all means at its disposal to ensure not just that key multilateral arms limitation and disarmament treaties are complied with, but also that we keep weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery out of the hands of terrorists and States which may support terrorists. The key means by which this is accomplished within the framework of such treaties and other agreements is by ensuring full compliance with their terms.

The draft resolution I am introducing on behalf of my Government seeks to reinforce that crucial fact. While the language in the draft resolution is based on previous versions of this draft, it has been updated to reflect the new international security imperatives that we face today. In this regard, while compliance with all agreements is to be reinforced, special emphasis must be placed on compliance with non-proliferation agreements as a way to keep weapons of mass destruction from becoming a part of the arsenal of terrorism. We all would suffer grievously were this to happen.

I wish to emphasize that the sole purpose of the United States in presenting this draft resolution is to focus the attention of Member States of the United Nations on the continuing need — now more urgent than ever — to comply with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. As in previous years when this draft resolution was offered, and in the future when it is offered again, our objective is and will be to address compliance, pure and simple. No other resolution does this, and it is vital to consider this draft resolution in that light.

The United States draft resolution on compliance, document A/C.1/57/L.54, was tabled last week with only the United States as the sponsor. Since then we have been open to ways to improve the text and have

made modifications that reflect the views of other delegations. We now seek widespread co-sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.54. We firmly believe that co-sponsorship of this draft resolution will signal more effectively the collective will of this body to enhance compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. Co-sponsorship would also underline the importance delegations attach to compliance with such agreements as an integral part of international security. That is indeed the fundamental focus of the draft resolution, and we hope that all members of the First Committee will agree and support it on that basis.

For that reason, it is also the hope of my delegation and my Government that the draft resolution will, as in the past, be adopted by the First Committee without a vote. We believe that the essential message of the draft resolution speaks for itself, and that the First Committee should send this draft resolution forward to the General Assembly with every delegation's support, thus underlining our mutual efforts to ensure our common security.

The Chairman: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Germany, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.45.

Mr. Heinsberg (Germany): As I am speaking for the first time in my national capacity, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election and assure you and the Bureau of the German delegation's full support.

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the 110 sponsors, a draft resolution entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures", contained in document A/C.1/57/L.45.

Like all past years, we attach particular importance to the fact that the co-sponsorship bridges the regional groupings and involves Member States of virtually all regions of the globe. I should like to express my appreciation and thanks to all countries that have undertaken so far to co-sponsor this draft resolution. My delegation would be grateful if even more sponsors enlisted.

Practical disarmament measures remain an important item of the United Nations agenda. The easy availability of large numbers of cheap and ready-to-use weapons — illicit, traded or manufactured — is widely seen as adding to the intensity and duration of ongoing armed conflicts, as well as increasing the risks of future violent incidents. Existing arms control measures do not cover cases of light weapons being used as the primary or sole tools of combat in ongoing conflicts or violent incidents. Thus, the concept of practical disarmament measures, as developed in the Agenda for Peace and addressed in the Millennium Declaration, tries to fill a gap in the disarmament agenda.

The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York in July 2001, provides a well-designed array of disarmament measures that are listed in its Programme of Action. Most of those measures lend themselves to implementation as projects designed for practical disarmament. The President of the Security Council also mentioned in his statement in September 2001 the importance of practical disarmament measures in averting armed conflicts, thereby stressing the preventive aspects of practical disarmament.

Similarly, the Secretary-General, in his report of June 2001 on the prevention of armed conflict, enumerated certain measures relating to small arms and light weapons that can help prevent such conflicts.

Last but not least, I should like to mention the important findings of the Group of Governmental Experts on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which were endorsed in the recently issued report of the Secretary-General (A/57/124). Disarmament and non-proliferation education is an important factor when it comes to preventing armed conflicts and/or consolidating the results of previous practical disarmament measures. I would go so far as to say that disarmament education itself belongs in the category of disarmament measures. Therefore, disarmament education figures in paragraph 41 of the second chapter of the Programme of Action.

In this year's draft resolution, we have attempted to pay tribute to the thoughts and considerations contained in the document just mentioned. We have added the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs, which refer to the Secretary-General's report on the prevention of armed conflict and the statement of the President of the Security Council. Likewise, we have made reference to the Secretary-General's report on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

I should also like to mention that, deviating from last year's practice of requesting a report from the

Secretary-General on the implementation of this draft resolution, we have decided to request that the Secretary-General report instead on the implementation of practical disarmament measures in general. It is our hope that by doing so we can widen the scope of the Secretary-General's report, thus possibly covering other resolutions related to the one before us, at least in part, thus helping to reduce the Secretariat's workload somewhat.

The implementation of practical disarmament measures through projects designed by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and/or the United Nations Development Programme is closely followed and in individual cases is both morally and financially supported by a group of interested States under Germany chairmanship. The group has recently met for the twenty-first time, and I am happy to say that even in its fourth year, it is doing well. Even though there is no direct link between co-sponsorship of this draft resolution and participation in the work of the group of interested States, involvement in its work can be a good way to demonstrate continued support for practical disarmament throughout the year.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you, Sir, that, as in previous years, we have sought to craft a text with the aim of securing consensus. In keeping with that tradition, I trust that the draft resolution will again be adopted without a vote.

Mr. Nielsen (Denmark): I have the honour, on behalf of the European Union (EU), to speak with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey; and the European Free Trade Association countries of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Norway, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union played an active part in the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as in the elaboration of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, in the negotiations on the United Nations Firearms Protocol and in the adoption of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The European Union stresses the need for prompt implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action. The European Union had hoped for a stronger Programme of Action on certain points. Therefore, the European Union is committed to an effective, ambitious and continuous follow-up process leading through the 2003 and 2005 Conferences to the next Review Conference, in 2006. The 2003 Conference will be the first opportunity to take stock of progress — or the lack thereof — in the implementation of the Programme of Action. However, taking stock must be a dynamic process in which there is room for making proposals for strengthening and developing the measures contained in the Programme of Action. Legally binding commitments on marking and tracing, as well as on brokering, could be further pursued. Only by using the two biennial meetings in 2003 and 2005 and the time between them will we be able to prepare appropriately for a successful 2006 Review Conference. The follow-up process to the Programme of Action is outlined in draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33. The authors of that resolution — Colombia, Japan and South Africa — can be assured of the Union's full support.

The problem of small arms and light weapons is multidimensional and should be addressed accordingly. Only by addressing the issue at various levels — globally, regionally and nationally — will it be possible to make progress. At the global level, we reiterate the importance that we attach to the establishment of an international instrument to better identify and trace small arms and light weapons. It is well known that most of the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons is fed by items that were originally manufactured on a legal basis but have been deliberately diverted in order to supply parallel illicit markets. Improving the tracing of small arms and light weapons and the exchange of information among States would therefore constitute a concrete step in fighting that problem.

The EU welcomes the convening of the Group of Governmental Experts to examine the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner, while, at the same time, stressing its support of the French-Swiss initiative. The EU stands ready to assume responsibility in that

process and supports efforts to combat the illicit trade in such weapons and their proliferation.

The Chairman: I now call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.32.

Mr. Baeidi Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 55/33 A on missiles in 1999, quite good progress has been achieved with regard to the issue's various relevant aspects. The report of the Secretary-General on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229) is the first United Nations study on missiles. The Panel of Governmental Experts that assisted the Secretary-General in preparing the report reviewed extensively the current situation, existing initiatives and ongoing developments with regard to missiles. I take this opportunity to express my delegation's gratitude to the Secretary-General; to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Dhanapala; and to Ambassador Guerreiro of Brazil, Chairman of the Panel, as well to Panel members for their efforts to prepare and complete the report.

The report focused mainly on the evolution of missiles in the military and civil contexts and on the characteristics that have made them an appropriate choice for military and space programmes. In particular, the report, by outlining the driving factors in the acquisition and development of missiles, accurately addresses various relevant aspects related to missiles. Furthermore, the report recognizes that no multilaterally negotiated treaty exists that deals specifically with missiles. However, there are a number of bilateral, plurilateral and international initiatives related to missiles that show the great importance that States attach to the issue within the national, regional and international contexts. In addition, the report states that continued international efforts to deal with the issue of missiles are essential to international peace and security. In that context, the report notes the important role of the United Nations with regard to the issue.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.32 has been prepared and written in the same spirit as that of previous resolutions addressing the issue of missiles in the United Nations. The first operative paragraph welcomes the report of the Secretary-General. The second operative paragraph seeks the views of Member States on the report, and, accordingly, the fourth operative paragraph requests the Secretary-General to transmit those views in a report to the General Assembly. The third operative paragraph essentially requests the Secretary-General to further explore and address the issue of missiles in all its aspects with the assistance of a panel of governmental experts.

The report of the Secretary-General, as submitted to the General Assembly this year, requests that certain practical measures be further elaborated and that efforts be made to determine their practicability as recommendations to Member States. In order to provide Member States more time and ample opportunities to study and reflect on the report and to consider possible avenues for the future, we suggest that a panel be established in 2004. We expect that that panel will build upon existing achievements and will explore further ways and means to address and advance the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

Mr. Nielsen (Denmark): I am pleased to speak on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.4/Rev.1, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty". The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey; and the European Free Trade Area countries of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Norway, align themselves with this statement.

During the general debate on the first day of this year's session of the First Committee, I had the opportunity as President of the EU to express the views of the EU regarding the CTBT:

> "The importance and urgency of continuing the signing and ratification process of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in order to enable its entry into force as soon as possible was underlined in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. The Union wishes to reiterate that it spares no efforts in promoting the early entry into force of the Treaty and universal accession to it. It is with this in mind that the Union expresses its full support for the rapid establishment and for the operation of the verification regime. To ensure that the resolve of the international community does not weaken, it calls on all those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT, without delay and

without conditions, in particular those States whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force." (*A/C.1/57/PV.2*)

This is the reason why the EU is in full support of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.4/Rev.1, which has been sponsored by all EU member States.

Mr. Udedibia (Nigeria): My delegation has asked for the floor to speak on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". This draft resolution, as we all know, was submitted by the delegations of South Africa, Japan and Colombia, and my delegation has the honour of being a sponsor.

The issue of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons continues to be a matter of great concern to my delegation, considering the fact that the use and ready availability of these weapons are a major source of insecurity and a contribution to socio-economic stagnation throughout the developing world, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to which we belong. They have become the most common means of prosecuting armed conflicts, civil wars and criminality in our societies.

It is important to recognize that, while nuclear weapons may present a grave danger to the world as weapons of mass destruction, it is small arms and light weapons that have been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the world today. The expanding use of these weapons and their consequences present the international community with a new challenge. This is mainly because their proliferation sustains conflicts, exacerbates violence, contributes to the displacement of civilians and undermines respect for international humanitarian law. It poses new threats to humanity in the forms of terrorism and organized crime. It has a negative impact on women and the elderly and devastating consequences on children.

Unfortunately, this problem has grown to such immense proportions that it is practically impossible for many countries in sub-Saharan Africa to focus attention on issues of development without first resolving the problem of the illicit transfer of these weapons to their territories. We believe that any action by the international community that could bring an end to this negative phenomenon will no doubt constitute the first major step towards helping Africa to achieve sustainable and meaningful development.

My delegation is deeply concerned that, despite the serious danger that the illicit use of these weapons poses, there is currently no international treaty or any other legal instrument to control their use. We therefore wish to call for a legally binding international instrument to control the access to these weapons of non-State actors.

It is, however, gratifying to note that there has been increasing multilateral cooperation on the issue of small arms and light weapons, most recently last year with the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which adopted a Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in these weapons. The Programme of Action contains a comprehensive set of measures to address this problem. We note with appreciation that the Conference, the first of its kind on this issue, generated political will and momentum for efforts to control these weapons. We urge the international community to sustain this momentum for progress. We also emphasize the need for full implementation of the Programme.

In recognition of the importance that my country attaches to this subject matter, Nigeria has initiated action at various levels to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. At the national level, Nigeria has put in place practical measures to tackle the problem with the establishment of a national committee on small arms and light weapons. At the subregional level, in October 1998 Nigeria joined other countries members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in declaring a three-year moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons. ECOWAS renewed its moratorium for a second three-year period with effect from 15 July 2001. We urge other regions to follow the example of ECOWAS by imposing similar moratoriums.

At the regional level, in December 2000 Nigeria joined African countries in adopting the Bamako Ministerial Declaration containing Africa's common position on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking in small arms and light weapons. As part of our efforts in this area, Nigeria, together with nine other countries, co-sponsored the African Conference on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms: Needs and

Partnerships, which took place in Pretoria in March this year.

It is our strong belief that efforts aimed at addressing the problem must be multidimensional if they are to succeed. The international community should demonstrate its sincerity about ridding the world of these weapons by enacting appropriate international legislation to control arms transfers, which should include mechanisms that will facilitate the identification of such transfers. It is also important that such mechanisms ensure appropriate sanctions against manufacturers and suppliers who violate global regulations on the issue. This, of course, calls for transparency and confidence-building measures.

Of even greater importance is the need for us, as members of the international community, to promote conflict prevention measures and the pursuit of negotiated solutions to conflicts. Our emphasis should be on promoting structures and processes that strengthen democracy, human rights, the rule of law and good governance, and economic recovery growth, as well as on eliminating conflicts and guaranteeing durable peace. It is evident from this that our task in this area is an enormous one that calls for genuine commitment and concerted action on the part of the international community.

My delegation takes this opportunity to thank the delegations of South Africa, Japan and Colombia for presenting the draft resolution on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We also thank all sponsors of the draft resolution and urge that it be adopted by consensus.

The Chairman: I call on the representative of India to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.49.

Mr. Sood (India): Since we submitted draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.49 there have been developments, and consultations went on until late in the evening yesterday. As a result, we provided a clean revised text to the Secretariat this morning. But clearly, it has not yet been circulated as A/C.1/57/L.49/Rev.1. So I have requested the conference officer to distribute copies of the revised version which we hope will be formally circulated later today or early Monday.

I have the honour to introduce a revised version of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.49, now entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", under agenda item 66. The draft resolution has already attracted sponsorship from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Fiji, Georgia, Mauritius, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands.

The profoundly tragic events that preceded our meetings at this time last year, and subsequent attacks, most recently in Indonesia, have dramatically affected the nature of disarmament and international security approaches. There is growing realization of the grave potential of terrorists or non-State groups, spanning national boundaries, to create terror and devastation whose reverberations would affect life all around the civilized world. These individuals or non-State actors need only a weapon of mass destruction to inflict that devastation.

At the national, regional and global levels, there is an urgent need to deal with this threat in a meaningful and collective manner. The Secretary-General, in his address to the General Assembly on 1 October 2001, said that

> "While the world was unable to prevent the 11 September attacks, there is much we can do to help prevent future terrorist acts carried out with weapons of mass destruction. The greatest danger arises from a non-State group, or even an individual, acquiring and using a nuclear, biological or chemical weapon. Such a weapon could be delivered without the need for any missile or any other sophisticated delivery system." (*A/56/PV.12, pp. 3-4*)

The General Assembly and the Security Council have adopted a number of resolutions conveying the determination of the international community to combat terrorism. These include General Assembly resolutions 55/158 and 56/24 T, and Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1377 (2001).

The Durban Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Summit of the Group of Eight recently held in Canada are two of the forums where serious concern has been recorded about the growing evidence of possible linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The International Atomic Energy Agency has set up an Advisory Group on Nuclear Security in view of the growing concern regarding the possibility of nuclear terrorism. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters has considered the issues relating to weapons of mass

destruction and terrorism and has recommended certain steps.

It cannot be ruled out that terrorists and non-State actors in networks that span the globe may have access to technologies and know-how relating to weapons of mass destruction. Since this is not a problem specific to a particular country or region, and since it has global implications, we need to address it in the United Nations framework. A truly multilateral approach would have the best chance of being widely accepted and supported and, as such, would be eminently more effective.

Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, India proposes therefore to introduce a draft resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction". Delegations are aware of the extensive consultations that have preceded the introduction of this draft resolution.

Copies of the revised text have now been distributed, and I would like to indicate a small change in the text that delegations have in front of them. Paragraph 5 should read as follows:

> "Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction'."

I urge all delegations to support this initiative so that it can be adopted by the First Committee and by the General Assembly without a vote.

Mr. Oyugi (Kenya): I have taken the floor with regard to the five draft resolutions introduced earlier by the delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, draft resolutions A/C.1/57/L.8, L.9, L.11, L.12 and L.17. These draft resolutions touch on issues critical for disarmament and international security. For the moment, I would like to allude to just two of them.

The convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-IV) is overdue and should take place as a matter of urgency. We all acknowledge that the disarmament domain is in a stalemate. It is in a crisis and therefore needs to be urgently given a new lease on life. We believe that SSOD-IV could, among other things, serve that purpose. We therefore look forward to the establishment of an open-ended working group to look into the matter, as recommended in paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.8.

Closely linked to this is the question of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Multilateralism is an overriding principle in the successful pursuit of issues addressed by this Committee. It is only through concerted international cooperation involving all Member States as well as other relevant players that genuine global disarmament and security can be realized. My delegation therefore welcomes draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.10. We would like to thank the delegation of South Africa for its efforts in preparing and introducing these texts and we urge all delegations to accord the draft resolution their full support.

I would now like to turn to draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.43, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", which was also introduced this morning by the delegation of Myanmar.

Kenya, as a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), has persistently supported nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Like many other States, we are increasingly concerned at the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament. We therefore welcome this draft resolution, as it addresses this thorny issue and calls for the implementation of relevant and pragmatic measures. We hope that it will command widespread support from delegations in the Committee.

The Chairman: I call on the representative of Iraq to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.14.

Mr. Mahmoud (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to introduce a draft resolution entitled "Effects of the use of depleted uranium in armaments", under agenda item 66 on general and complete disarmament. The draft resolution is contained in document A/C.1/57/L.14.

Iraq had many reasons for introducing such a draft resolution again this year. At the regional level, this year the Standing Committee on Human Rights of the League of Arab States adopted a decision entitled "Human rights and weapons of mass destruction, including depleted uranium". At the international level, this matter received a great deal of attention from non-governmental organizations active in human rights and disarmament, as well as from the World Health

Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The work undertaken this year by a team from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assigned to assess the effects of the use of depleted uranium in Serbia and Montenegro led to the discovery of particles of depleted uranium in the air three years after the use of such weapons. The report also referred to the possible toxicity of water contaminated by this material.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the consequences of using depleted uranium munitions in Bosnia and Kosovo. Paragraph A of that resolution reads in part:

> "[I]n several European countries there is growing concern about the consequences of exposure to radiation and inhalation of toxic dust resulting from the use of depleted uranium weapons, which may have affected a number of soldiers who took part in the military operations in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia in 1995 and Kosovo in 1999".

The report which the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Human Rights Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, containing the comments of non-governmental organizations, reaffirms that depleted uranium: "may cause deaths and serious illnesses, disabilities and birth defects long after its war-time use in weapons. It remains in the soil, water supply and atmosphere for generations". (*E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/27, para. 23*)

Depleted uranium is used in a new generation of radiological weapons that destroy life and the environment for generations, wherever they are used and have additional chemical and toxic effects, as referred to in the cautionary material and reports adopted by UNEP, IAEA and WHO. The deployment of 800 tons of such weapons in Iraq in 1991 resulted in a huge increase in cases of cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in areas close to the deployment, as well as in the pollution of soil, air and water resources. That pollution will persist for thousands of years.

The eagerness with which the States producers of these weapons have hastened to use them to excess over the past decade and their clearly stated intention to use them again in the future and to develop new generations of such weapons are the principal cause for Iraq's sense of the urgent need for the international community to adopt an unambiguous position on this matter, given the dangers such weapons pose and their effects on the environment.

The First Committee adopted a similar text at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of States and relevant organizations on all aspects of the effects of the use of depleted uranium in armaments and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. It is our hope that members will support the draft resolution, which represents a modest step towards the assessment of the effects of the use of such weapons.

In conclusion, God has blessed humankind with a beautiful environment, which has been passed down by our ancestors for thousands of years. Our main concern in any decision we take should be to consider the state in which we bequeath the environment to our children.

The Chairman: We have concluded the second phase of the Committee's work. As stated previously, and in accordance with the Committee's programme of work and timetable, the third phase of our work — action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under agenda items 57, 58 and 60 to 73 — will begin next week. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the text of the Chairman's clustering paper contained in document A/C.1/57/CRP.3, which was made available for your consideration on Wednesday of this week. The Committee will begin its work by taking action on draft resolutions in cluster I, namely nuclear weapons, on Monday 22 October 2002. It is my intention, with your cooperation and on the basis of past practice and precedent, to move as efficiently as possible from one cluster to another, upon the completion of action on each cluster. Nonetheless, while following this procedure, the Committee will maintain a desirable degree of flexibility.

During the decision-taking stage on each individual cluster, delegations will first have the opportunity to introduce revised draft resolutions with regard to any particular cluster. Then, delegations wishing to make general statements or comments other than explanations of votes on specific draft resolutions contained in a particular cluster will be allowed to do so. Thereafter, delegations will have the chance to explain their positions or votes on the draft resolutions

before a decision is taken. Following the Committee's decision on a draft resolution, delegations will be invited to explain their votes or positions after the decision, if they wish to do so. In other words, delegations will have the opportunity to provide explanations on a particular draft resolution either before or after a vote is taken on that draft resolution. In accordance with the rules of procedure, sponsors of draft resolutions are not permitted to make statements in explanation of their vote. They are allowed to make any general statements at the beginning of the meeting on particular clusters.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I would like to urge those delegations wishing to request a recorded vote on any particular draft resolution to kindly inform the Secretariat of their intention as early as possible before the Committee begins action on any individual cluster.

Finally, with regards to any deferment of action on any draft resolution, delegations should also inform the Secretariat at least one day in advance before action is to be taken on the draft resolution. Every effort, however, should be made to refrain from resorting to a deferment of action. So we urge you to inform us in advance.

It is my intention therefore, with the concurrence of the Committee, to follow the procedure that I have just outlined during the next phase of our work. If I hear no objection may I take it that the Committee agrees with the procedure I just outlined?

It was so decided.

The Chairman: In order to utilize the remaining time and facilities in an efficient and constructive manner, I count on the full cooperation and assistance of all delegations in order to enable the Chair to conclude the work of the First Committee as scheduled on time. At this stage I would like to ask the Secretary to make some announcements.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): I would like to inform the Committee that the following Member States have become sponsors to the following draft resolutions: draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.4/Rev.1: Bangladesh, Iceland, Latvia, Malta, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Senegal, Finland, Brazil, Solomon Islands and Chile; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.7: Norway, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile and India; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.20: Chile; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.25: Colombia, Ethiopia, Malta, United Kingdom, Croatia and Zambia; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Liechtenstein, Solomon Islands and Chile; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.31: Ukraine; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.34: Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands; draft resolutions A/C.1/57/L.36 and A/C.1/57/L.35: Solomon Islands; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.37: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Liechtenstein and Chile; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.38: Thailand, Solomon Islands and Chile; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.39: Georgia; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.40: Solomon Islands; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.41: Georgia and Spain; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.42: Ukraine, Italy and Côte d'Ivoire; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.43: Solomon Islands and Iraq; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.44: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Solomon Islands; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.45: Israel, Solomon Islands and Turkey; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.46: Costa Rica, Paraguay and Liechtenstein; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.47/Rev.1: Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation and Austria; draft resolutions A/C.1/57/L.50 and A/C.1/57/L.51: Solomon Islands; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.52: Malaysia and Solomon Islands; draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.53: India; and draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.54: Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Zambia.

The Chairman: The draft resolutions that the Committee will act on on Monday 21 October from cluster I on nuclear weapons are the following: draft resolutions A/C.1/57/L.4, A/C.1/57/L.19, A/C.1/57/L.23, A/C.1/57/L.32, A/C.1/57/L.34, A/C.1/57/L.40, A/C.1/57/L.44, A/C.1/57/L.51, A/C.1/57/L.52 and A/C.1/57/L.53. The paper for those resolutions has been circulated.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.